

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

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WSLCB Guiding Principles

Concerning the Chronic Public Inebriate, Neighborhood Livability
and Cooperation with Local Communities

RCW 66.08, the enabling statute for the Liquor Control Board - also known as The Steele Act - is an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection of the welfare, health, peace . . . and safety [italics added] of the people of the state.

In pursuit of this statutory responsibility, the Board adopts the following framework as Guiding Principles for WSLCB staff concerning Chronic Public Inebriation, Neighborhood Livability and Cooperation with Local Communities and Jurisdictions regarding alcohol related issues.

The Chronic Public Inebriate. Individuals in the late stages of alcoholism who chronically drink alcohol in public ("chronic public inebriates" or CPI's) present a risk both to their own health, safety and welfare and to that of the public at large. These risks are manifested in distinct ways, including: loud, boisterous and assaultive behaviors; aggressive panhandling; destruction of public and private property; the smashing of glass beverage containers on public streets and sidewalks; and the public voiding of bodily wastes, amongst other uncivil, illegal and anti-social behaviors. These behaviors, in turn, may create a screen that can mask criminal behaviors such as drug trafficking, prostitution, and petty street crimes. These behaviors, when concentrated within a specific geographic area, contribute to neighborhood blight, decay, and increased crime, including the victimization of CPI's. Further, these behaviors result in significant impacts to local law enforcement and medical and social services both in terms of resources and associated costs.

Preventing and reducing the harm caused by alcohol consumption requires a comprehensive, multi-dimensional response including coordinated treatment services, counseling and health care; shelter or housing appropriate to the CPI's status; job training; law enforcement; and/or the involvement of neighborhood residents, local business and local government. The Board desires that, when invited, this agency participate in local community-based initiatives which seek to employ comprehensive strategies to address and resolve these and related harms.

TX529-001

Resp to Costco RFP 5288 CASE CO4-0360P

EXHIBIT 529

Community Livability. Community residents and the employees and owners of neighboring business have a right to live and work in an environment which is safe, clean and free from unlawful activities, unlawful noise levels and disturbances attributable to the sale or service of alcohol. The Board believes that alcohol licensees have a responsibility to contribute to, rather than jeopardize, the well being of the community in which they operate. In furtherance of this perspective, Intergovernmental Affairs, Licensing and Enforcement staffs will study rule making solutions. In the interim, the Board encourages licensees to:

 promote, sell and serve alcohol in a safe environment and responsible manner which minimizes the risks associated with its use;

 work in partnership with community and civic organizations and with law enforcement agencies to maintain and improve public safety and community livability; and

embrace their responsibility as the public's first line of defense for preventing alcohol
availability to minors and sales to intoxicated persons. Other than table wine specialty
shops, beer and wine sales for off premises consumption should not be the primary
emphasis of a neighborhood retail business, but should be incidental to other business
and services that benefit the community.

Local Jurisdictions and Collaborative Alcohol Management Practices. The WSLCB encourages local jurisdictions to establish formal processes for the review of new license applications and renewal of existing alcohol licenses and the development of documented recommendations to WSLCB. These processes would include the timely notification of neighborhood businesses and residential/community associations in addition to law enforcement agencies. These processes may include provisions to create alcohol impact areas or zones covering a defined neighborhood with appropriate provisions to guide recommendations on new and renewal alcohol licenses within the area or zone.

Local jurisdictions experiencing a concentration of alcohol-related problems in a defined neighborhood are encouraged to pursue voluntary cooperation from alcohol licensees by use of Good Neighbor Agreements in conjunction with the community business or civic organization serving the neighborhood. These voluntary agreements promote business practices that address neighborhood livability and public health issues related to alcohol sales and consumption.

License Restrictions. The Licensing, Enforcement, and Intergovernmental Affairs staffs are directed to study the use of restricted licenses in conjunction with local jurisdictions implementing comprehensive strategies directed at neighborhoods impacted by problems arising from alcohol sales and use. The staffs should include in this study information from Public Health authorities, medical and/or scientific sources on the efficacy of alcohol restrictions. Should a license restriction rule proposal be offered, elements to be considered would include (1) a request by the local jurisdiction that has identified a defined geographic area (alcohol impact area or zone) in which restrictions might be applied; (2) documentation that quantifies the current impact on local safety, public health and/or neighborhood livability, (3) the local jurisdiction's formal procedures regarding license application recommendations and the designation of alcohol impact areas/zones, and (4) description of efforts to engage local alcohol licensees in neighborhood initiatives to address the problems.

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Community Assistance. The Board will prepare a community assistance manual that would guide jurisdictions seeking to create and implement comprehensive strategies on a public/private partnership basis to address serious alcohol related problems. The Board will also consider what technical assistance might be offered through WSLCB to help those communities launch this partnership.

Date: November 12, 1997

Nathan S. Ford, Jr.

Chairman

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